

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 HA-05 ARA-10 /109 W

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R 141205Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6965

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3415

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, SO, KE, ET

SUBJ: SOMALI VIEWS ON RHODESIA AND CONFLICT WITH ETHIOPIA

1. SUMMARY: SOMALI CHARGE OSMAN SEES ELECTIONS AS NECESSARY TO RESOLVING RHODESIAN INDEPENDENCE, PORTRAYS SOVIETS AS ONLY INTERESTED IN PROMOTING THE ARMED STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA AND WARNS OF SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO BECOME MORE DEEPLY ENTRENCHED MILITARILY IN ZAMBIA. HE SAYS SOMALIA SUPPORTS NKOMO BUT IS TRAINING BOTH ZAPU AND ZANU OFFICER LEVEL PERSONNEL IN SOMALIA. CHARGE APPEALS TO US FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO HELP WARD OFF ANTICIPATED ETHIOPIAN COUNTER OFFENSIVE IN THE OAGDEN. END SUMMARY.

2. SOMALI CHARGE OSMAN CALLED ON DCM, OSTENSIBLY TO INFORM HIMSELF ON RESULTS OF CARVER MEETINGS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HOWEVER, IT WAS APPARENT HE REALLY WANTED TO PRESENT HIS OWN
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VIEWS. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON RHODESIA:

--SOMALIA HAS BACKED AND WILL CONTINUE TO BACK NKOMO AS THE LEADER OF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

--NKOMO HAD TOLD THE FORMER SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA THAT HE KNEW HE COULD NOT WIN AN ELECTION IN ZIMBABWE.

--NKOMO MAY DEMAND ALL POWER FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DURING A TRANSITION PERIOD, BUT THIS IS A BARGAINING POSITION. HE

CAN BE CONVINCED TO TAKE LESS THAN TOTAL CONTROL
--SOMALIA FAVORS ELECTIONS AS

THE MEANS FOR TRANSFERRING
POWER IN RHODESIA. PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S IDEAS ABOUT TURNING
POWER OVER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SHOULD BE READ AS EXTREME
DEMAND WHICH CAN BE MODIFIED IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS.
--SOMALIA, WHILE FAVORING NKOMO, HAS AGREED TO AND IS TRAINING
BOTH ZANU AND ZAPU OFFICER LEVEL PERSONNEL IN SOMALIA.
SOMALIA IS TOO POOR TO TRAIN LARGE NUMBERS OF ZIMBABWEANS.
--THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT INTERESTED IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLE-
MENT. THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO INFLUENCE NKOMO TO HOLD OUT
FOR A MILITARY VICTORY.
--THE SOVIETS, OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, HAVE WRITTEN TO
PRESIDENT KAUNDA A NUMBER OF TIMES REQUESTING HIS AGREEMENT
TO AN EXPANDED SOVIET MILITARY ADVISOR PRESENCE IN ZAMBIA.
KAUNDA HAS TURNED THEM DOWN, BUT NOW THE SOVIETS ARE WORKING
ON NKOMO TO GET HIM TO PRESSURE KAUNDA TO PERMIT AN EXPANDED
SOVIET PRESENCE.

3. TURNING TO SOMALIA'S RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA, SOMALI
CHARGE, IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A CANNED BRIEFING, MADE THE
FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

--ETHIOPIA HAS THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT ON HAND NEEDED TO
LAUNCH A COUNTER OFFENSIVE IN THE OAGDEN. WITH CUBAN AND
SOVIET ASSISTANCE THEY WERE GETTING ORGANIZED FOR AN
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OFFENSIVE.

--THE FINAL OBJECTIVE OF THE COUNTER OFFENSIVE WILL BE THE
ETHIOPIAN CONQUEST OF THE NORTHERN THIRD OF SOMALIA AND THE
PRINCIPAL TARGET THE CONTROL OF BERBERA. CHARGE SAID HIS
FRIENDS AT SOCIALIST EMBASSIES IN ZAMBIA HAD CONFIRMED TO
HIM THAT THIS IS WHAT THE SOVIETS AND ETHIOPIANS HAVE IN
MIND.

--SOMALIA DOES NOT NEED MANPOWER TO DEFEAT A COUNTER OFFENSIVE
EVEN IF THE CUBANS FOUGHT WITH THE ETHIOPIANS. WHAT SOMALIA
NEEDS IS MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE US AND OTHER
WESTERN POWERS.

--SOMALIA HAS NO DESIGNS ON KENYAN TERRITORY. THE ETHIOPIANS,
THROUGH CASH HANDOUTS TO KENYAN POLITICIANS, HAVE BEEN
SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE KENYANS TO PUBLICLY ESPOUSE WHAT
THEY KNOW IS NOT TRUE.

4. COMMENT: OSMAN CLEARLY HAS AN INTEREST IN PORTRAYING
THE SOVIETS IN THE BLACKEST TERMS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HIS
REMARKS ABOUT SOVIETS PRESSING KAUNDA TO PERMIT MORE SOVIET
MILITARY ADVISORS IN ZAMBIA COINCIDES WITH OTHER REPORTS WE
HAVE RECEIVED. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR HIS STATEMENT ABOUT
ZIMBABWE LIBERATION FORCES BEING TRAINED IN SOMALIA, ALTHOUGH

WE HAD SEEN REPORTS INDICATING THAT THERE WERE UP TO 600
ZIMBABWEANS IN TRAINING AND THAT THEY WERE NOT CONFINED TO
THE OFFICER LEVEL.
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